

March 28, 2007

Kris Kuntz
1727 Pine Lake Rd.
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Dear Kevin Martin,

Yes, much of the following is a pre-written e-mail but I wanted to put my own words first. My husband and I have been running a business for 17 years. We have a place in Bloomington which does allow us to have DSL. We find ourselves having to stay late at work almost every night to be able to deal with our internet activity. We have only dial-up outside Spencer, IN and the phone lines from AT&T/SBC are so bad that even with a 56k modem the best we've ever managed to get is about 26k. This makes doing aolmost anything on the internet today impossible. We've wanted to expand our business and take more advantage of the internet but that would mean going into Bloomington every day to keep up on things. Broadband of any sort would allow us to be able to take care of things at home in the evening or on weekends and would allow us to expand in a way that we just currently can't.

Those of us in rural areas are hit hardest by this lack - the phone company doesn't see the need to update their switches (we live close enough to one that we could get DSL if they would), the power company is trying to come up with a solution but it's not looking very good and the cell phone companies aren't intersted in offering wi-fi in our area since they feel they won't make enought money on it. I definitely understand the 'make money' issue but I think that something needs to be done for businesses and also for families and expecially children. Rural families don't generally have the access to many things that city folk do and the internet can allow these rural families access 'virtually' to many of those same things. It's important that they have these opportunities too.

Thanks for reading. If you have any desire to contact me, please feel free.

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One of the greatest opportunities small and independent businesses have to achieve their entrepreneurial goals is harnessing the power of the Internet. Unfortunately, while small and independent businesses account for 99% of all American businesses, only 57% currently use the Internet for business related activities. Even fewer have high-speed connectivity, and 65% do not have company Web sites.

One of the major roadblocks between small business entrepreneurs and e-commerce is price. Current prices for broadband in the United States are among the highest in the

world. Today's entrepreneurs must make difficult monthly choices regarding where to focus their resources.

Our nation must ensure that all American entrepreneurs, including small business owners, have affordable access to broadband for e-commerce and daily businesses operations. This will help small businesses take advantage of online marketing opportunities, help keep America's economy strong and competitive and bridge the digital divide that now separates too many Americans simply because of where they live and their economic circumstances.

Implementation of a proposal now before the FCC to provide fast, free, and family friendly universal broadband access program, like that supported by the Coalition for Free Broadband Now, is a necessary step to help make free Internet service a reality for all American's, including small business entrepreneurs. I urge you to take action now to ensure these necessary steps are taken!

Sincerely,

Kris Kuntz
812-828-0686

Cc: Michael Copps
Jonathan Adelstein
Deborah Taylor Tate
Robert McDowell
Representative Ellsworth
Senator Bayh
Senator Lugar